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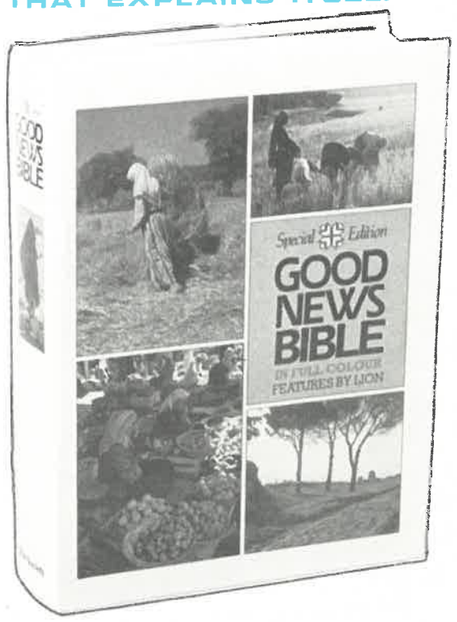


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# THE PIONEER

PUBLICATION OF THE CHURCH ARMY IN AUSTRALIA

A SPECIAL EDITION

MEET THE PEOPLE WHO YOU SUPPORT THROUGH PRAYER AND GIVING


Registered for posting as a periodical - Category A

SEPTEMBER 1980

# Is God Calling You?

The Church Army could place many more Evangelists in positions of leadership and service, but there are not enough Officers available.

If you are interested in a ministry of evangelism similar to the work of the men and women that you have read about then we invite you to consider carefully and prayerfully the terms and conditions under which a person is accepted. Before we would accept you for training we would have to feel convinced that you had provided satisfactory evidence of the following :

* that you have a lively faith in God, a personal experience of Christ in your daily life and an openess to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
* that you have a real devotional life and that you are no stranger to prayer, meditation on the Scriptures and fellowship with other Christians seeking to serve God.
* that you are an Anglican communicant, active in the life of the Church. We would want evidence that you are already exercising a personal ministry as a Christian.
* that you personally feel that God is calling you to the type of ministry in which Church Army Captains and Sisters are involved.
* that you would be willing to accept the personal discipline involved in such a ministry, and be willing to work anywhere in Australia and willing to have a try at anything asked of you.
* that you have a reasonable standard of education and are able to provide evidence of ability to accept new ideas and adapt to new situations.
* that you really love people, that you are able to mix well and communicatewith other people of all walks of life, and of both sexes.
* that you are physically fit and emotionally stable.
* that you could accept and abide by the principles of the Church Army and its Rule of Life, i.e.

*"To do the work of an evangelist in the power of the Holy Spirit, caring for people by word and action.*

*To order your life after the example of Christ, and to allow nothing in your personal relationships and behaviour which would hinder you in making God's love real to people.*

*To maintain a personal rule about spiritual discipline and devotion and the stewardship of time and money.*

*To undertake such study as will increase your understanding of the message of God to the people and situation to which you are sent.*

*To be a loyal member of the Anglican Church and to work for Christian Unity.*

*To work and pray for the effectiveness of the Church Army as a whole and to promote sound relationships with fellow workers."*

IF YOU CAN SAY "YES" TO THESE THINGS THEN WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU.
WRITE TO : THE CANDIDATE'S SECRETARY, P.O. BOX 107 FRENCH'S FOREST, N.S.W.



# Meet The Church Army

## ....THIS IS THEIR LIFE

### SR. NONI BRIDGES

EVANGELIST WITH CHILDREN

Almost all of Sr. Bridges' twenty-nine years as a Church Army Sister have been spent in ministry to children with special needs, especially with those in need of full-time residential care. She has worked at Lochinvar and Taree in the Diocese of Newcastle, at St. Michael's, Kelso in Bathurst, at Pallister Girls' Homes in Sydney, as Matron of Farr House in the Diocese of Adelaide, and more recently at Burwood Children's Home on the outskirts of Melbourne. Through this intensely personal and very practical ministry, thousands of young people have received care and ministry.

Sr. Bridges has recently been taking some well earned Long Service Leave before taking up a new appointment - once more in an area involving children in need of special love and care.

### CAPT. TREVOR BROOKS

PARISH EVANGELISM

Several years ago a number of Parishes around Lithgow in New South Wales, were brought together as one pastoral district. Trevor Brooks serves in this area, with special responsibility for the district that once used to be Portland Parish in the Diocese of Bathurst, and is now included in the Sydney Diocese. He and his wife Shona live at Cullen Bullen. The major part of his ministry involves teaching in schools, pastoral visitation, youth work, and general availability at times of crisis.

Trevor also has a special interest in ministry to the mentally handicapped. He has played a leading role in the Crossways Fellowship for the Handicapped, and in developing camping and holiday programmes for people with special needs in this area.

### SR. LYNETTE BULLARD

YOUTH WORK AND EVANGELISTIC MISSIONS

Following her commissioning in 1976, Lyn joined the staff of Forbes Parish in the Diocese of Bathurst. As a member of the team ministry there, she provides leadership and lay training in the areas of Children's Ministry, Youth Work and other aspects of Evangelism. She is also responsible for the pastoral care of the young people living at the Youth Hostel in the Parish.

## SR. JENNY THOMSON

PARISH EVANGELISM IN BRISBANE

Jenny Thomson was commissioned as a Church Army Officer at the beginning of this year. Her first appointment is as a Parish Evangelist at Sherwood in the Diocese of Brisbane.

Working with the Rector of that parish, Jenny participates in all areas of parish ministry including leading worship and sharing in the preaching ministry. A large part of her work relates to parish study groups and youth activities. School ministry includes providing Religious Education at the Montrose Handicapped Children's School.

## SR. CAROL TOKLEY

TEAM MINISTRY IN THE WODEN VALLEY

At the beginning of this year, Sister Tokley was appointed as Parish Evangelist in the Lyons-Chifley Parish in the Woden Valley of Canberra, A.C.T. She is a member of a Team Ministry with Priests and Brothers from the Society of the Sacred Mission. The Parish Centre is within the main Woden Valley Shopping Plaza and forms part of an ecumenical centre which includes worship centres, counselling and education rooms, a chapel and the Headquarters of Canberra's "Life Line" ministry.

While sharing in most Parish activities, Carol's present ministry particularly concentrates on working with the various small house groups, ministry to children with the Youth Group, and especially work among the young married women living in the many flats and new houses that surround the Parish centre.

Earlier this year Carol announced her engagement to Mr. Glen Scott, who is in his final year of training at the College, and is to be commissioned in December.

## CAPT. MARK ROGERS

PARISH EVANGELISM AND MINISTRY THROUGH SONG

Since the beginning of this year, Mark Rogers has been Parish Evangelist in the Parish of Redcliffe in the Diocese of Brisbane. Mark is responsible for the Parish's Religious Education programme in schools and this ministry along with outreach to the 388 Anglican families whose children attend Anglican Scripture classes. Mark's second area of responsibility is for Youth Ministry which involves both contact with young people outside the Church and equipping young parishioners to discern and develop their gifts and exercise their own ministry as part of the Parish.

Mark's own special gift that provides him with many special opportunities for evangelism is in the area of singing and music. This has enabled him to make a special contribution to both worship and "coffee house" types of ministry. He writes many of the songs that he uses in ministry. He is presently training a team of young people for outreach ministry of this type.



which includes responsibility for aspects of the Senior Biblical Studies programme, Counselling, and participation in other aspects of school life that provide her with regular opportunities to minister amongst the pupils and especially with the boarders.

Both at the school and in her Youth Ministry on weekends at West Tamworth, Wendy is able to minister to many people through the use of music, song and drama. This has included playing a leading part in the production of several Christian musicals. It is in this area of ministry that Wendy has also made a special contribution to a number of Church Army Parish Missions over the past few years.

## SR. PAT FREE

INDUSTRIAL EVANGELISM AND PARISH MINISTRY

Over the past Twenty years the Church in Australia has become increasingly active in the area of Industrial Chaplaincy. Church Army's contribution to the development of this work began in the late fifties with a lunch-time ministry in the Newcastle Dockyards. To-day the Society seconds three of its Officers to work as Staff Chaplains with the Inter-Church Trade and Industry Mission. Sister Pat Free is one of these Chaplains - and at present is one of the few women working in this area of ministry.

Sister Free is Chaplain to W.D. & H.O. Wills at Kensington and to the Offices of the Metropolitan, Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board in Sydney.

Pat is also a member of the parish staff at Holy Trinity Church, Kingsford. For the six years prior to her appointment as an Industrial Chaplain, she was Staff Officer at the Federal Office, Student Counsellor at the Training College, and also played a leading part in developing ministry to handicapped children through the provision of several camps each year for children with special needs.

FOR SEVERAL YEARS PAT WAS EDITOR OF THIS MAGAZINE, "THE PIONEER", AND CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO MANY OF THE SOCIETY'S COMMITTEES AS WELL AS GIVING GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT TO THE SISTERS IN THEIR WORK. HER HELP IN PLANNING AND ORGANISING AT HEADQUARTERS IS GREATLY MISSED.

## CAPT. JOHN HARDING

PARISH EVANGELISM IN WESTERN N.S.W.

After three years as Parish Evangelist in the Sydney suburban Parish of Hurstville, John Harding and his wife Joan moved, at the beginning of this year, to join the staff of the Parish of Moree in the north western area of Armidale Diocese.

John's ministry particularly relates to Religious Education in schools, Youth Work, Pastoral Visitation and the development of lay ministry in these areas. As in his previous appointment, John has also specialised in ministry to the aged, providing special pastoral care for the large number of people living at Convalescent Homes and Retirement Villages within the Parish.

## CAPT. NEIL PAYNE

EVANGELISM THROUGH LITERATURE

The effective use of good Christian literature has, from earliest times been an integral part of evangelistic outreach and preparation of the Church for mission. Great saints of the Church like Augustine, Martin Luther and John Wesley owed their conversion to the availability of Christian Books. Wilson Carlile, founder of the Church Army, also came to give his life to Christ through literature given to him to read during a long sickness. Little wonder then, that from its earliest days in Australia, Church Army has regarded the availability of good literature as a basic element of its outreach programme.

Captain Neil Payne is Manager of the Church Army Bookshops at Newcastle and Grafton. A position he has held for the past fifteen years. Prior to this he served his "apprenticeship" the hard way - as the Officer in charge of the Church Army's Mobile Bookshop. Neil's wife Judy also works at the Newcastle Bookshop assisting in administration work.

For many years the Newcastle Bookshop was in rented premises within Tyrell House, below the Diocesan Registry. Thanks to the legacy of the late Clyde Burgmann, the opportunity was provided for the Society to purchase its own larger premises at the heart of the main shopping area. Under Captain Payne's leadership, considerable expansion has taken place since the move, and the new position has also brought many non Church-people into the shop, not only to purchase books, but to talk about Christianity.

## THE REV. CAPT. NORMAN POLGEN

PRIEST AND EVANGELIST AMONGST ABORIGINES

In 1950 Norman Polgen, following in the footsteps of his sister, the late Sister Emma Polgen, and his brother, the late Captain Allan Polgen, left the Palm Island Aboriginal Settlement in North Queensland to train as a Church Army Officer. Almost thirty years later a full circle has been realised when in August of this year, Captain Polgen returned to the Aboriginal community on Palm Island as their Parish Priest.

Norman has, in his thirty years of ministry, first as a lay-evangelist, and then over the past ten years a Priest-Evangelist, become well known to thousands of people through Australia. He has travelled widely both on Evangelistic Mission Teams and as a Missioner with the Church Army's Mobile Mission to Aborigines. Since his ordination as a priest for the Diocese of Rockhampton, he has ministered at St. George's Children's Home at North Rockhampton and Woorabinda Aboriginal Reserve in Blackwater Parish.

*In his new appointment he will be the first Aboriginal Priest to minister to the people of Palm Island.*



## CAPT. PHILLIP JACKSON

INNER-CITY EVANGELISM TO PARISH MINISTRY IN BRISBANE

Phillip Jackson was commissioned at the beginning of this year. In his initial appointment he worked as a Parish Evangelist in the Inner-City area of Sydney. Attached to the Parish of East Sydney he was particularly concerned with visitation of people coming to live in the Woolloomooloo area of the parish where a re-development project is reaching completion. He also shared in the Religious Education programme at local schools and at one of the Church Schools in the area.

At the beginning of August, Phillip shifted to Caloundra in the Brisbane Diocese where he shares in a team ministry. He is particularly concerned with ministry to older parishioners, Religious Education in Schools and the development of a new area of the Parish.

Phillip also has a special interest in ministry to children through camping. For a number of years he has been a Counsellor at the annual Crippled Children's Camp. He has also been the Anglican Church's representative on Executive Committee of the National Christian Youth Conference.

## THE REV. CAPT. JOHN McKNIGHT

MINISTRY IN DRUG REHABILITATION AND COUNSELLING

Back in January, 1972, a young Church Army Officer, not long out of College, spent a month endeavouring to understand more fully the life situation of young people who had opted-out of society. This included young people sharing in "Alternate Culture" Communes. Many of the young people contacted were affected by the growing availability and misuse of drugs.

His month was spent living with these young people "on the road". Sometimes sleeping under the stars, sometimes in overnight refuges and often in the back of derelict cars.

This was of course only the beginning! Eight years later, John McKnight is recognised by both Church and Government, as one of the foremost experts on ministry to people with drug related problems.

Seven years ago, John was offered the use of the Binna Burra Butter Factory, a disused building set in three acres of land at a very nominal rent. John was freed for fifty percent of his time to spend time with people from the alternate cultures, and to work amongst young people with drug problems. Later the same year, because of financial help made available through Grafton Diocese and friends of the Society, John's special ministry became full time and the first step was taken in turning the building into a Christian Community Centre. From this base he was able to reach out to people belonging to the alternative culture, and at the same time, provide care and healing for people with problems.